

A note to the residents of West Long Branch, from your Shade Tree Commission

Dear Neighbors,

It has come to the attention of Borough Hall staff and the Shade Tree Commission that the current Tree Preservation Code needed a thorough review to strengthen the ordinance. The Ordinance Review committee has studied the current ordinance and made recommendations on amendments to the current ordinance, which have been approved and adopted by the Borough as of August 3, 2022.

We want to share with you a summary of the amendments to the ordinance below. The complete Ordinance is available at www.WestLongBranch.org and you may contact us there, as well.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING

Chapter XXIII TREE PRESERVATION CODE

- ❖ A permit is required before any tree may be removed from any property within the Borough; this requirement applies to both live, dead, or dying trees.
- ❖ The fee to be paid when applying for a tree removal permit shall be \$45.00.
- ❖ No tree may be removed on a Sunday, except where there has been storm damage and imminent hazard exists.
- ❖ Ordinance 23- 6 is amended to read as follows: "Any person found guilty of violating any provision of this Chapter shall be subject to a fine of (a) \$100 if the tree was removed without the property owner first having obtained a tree removal permit; and (b) \$1,000.00 per tree for all other violations, plus not less than \$ 100. 00, nor more than \$1,000.00 and replacement of the tree, consistent with the requirements of this Chapter. Each tree intentionally cut down, destroyed, damaged, or removed, without being replaced shall constitute a separate offense".
- ❖ Any existing ordinances which have provisions contrary to this ordinance shall be deemed repealed, to the extent of any inconsistency.
- ❖ Effective Date - This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage and publication according to law.

Trees enhance your environment and your quality of life! There are three reasons for you to want to protect our urban forestry: environmental, social, and economic. Below is a brief list summarizing the benefits we get from our investment in trees.

- ✓ Filters air pollution chemicals and dangerous small dust particles
- ✓ Increases our property values
- ✓ Provide summer shade and protection from winter winds and blowing snow which not only make us more comfortable, but reduces heating and cooling costs by at least 20%
- ✓ Reduces traffic/street sounds by absorbing the noise
- ✓ Reduces water runoff, flooding, erosion, and storm water management costs
- ✓ Helps to recharge ground water and keep sediment and pollutants from our streams
- ✓ Provides shelter and food for birds, mammals, and fish
- ✓ Blocks unsightly views
- ✓ Brings nature closer to where we live, commute, work, and play
- ✓ A large shade tree in a year can produce enough oxygen for ten people